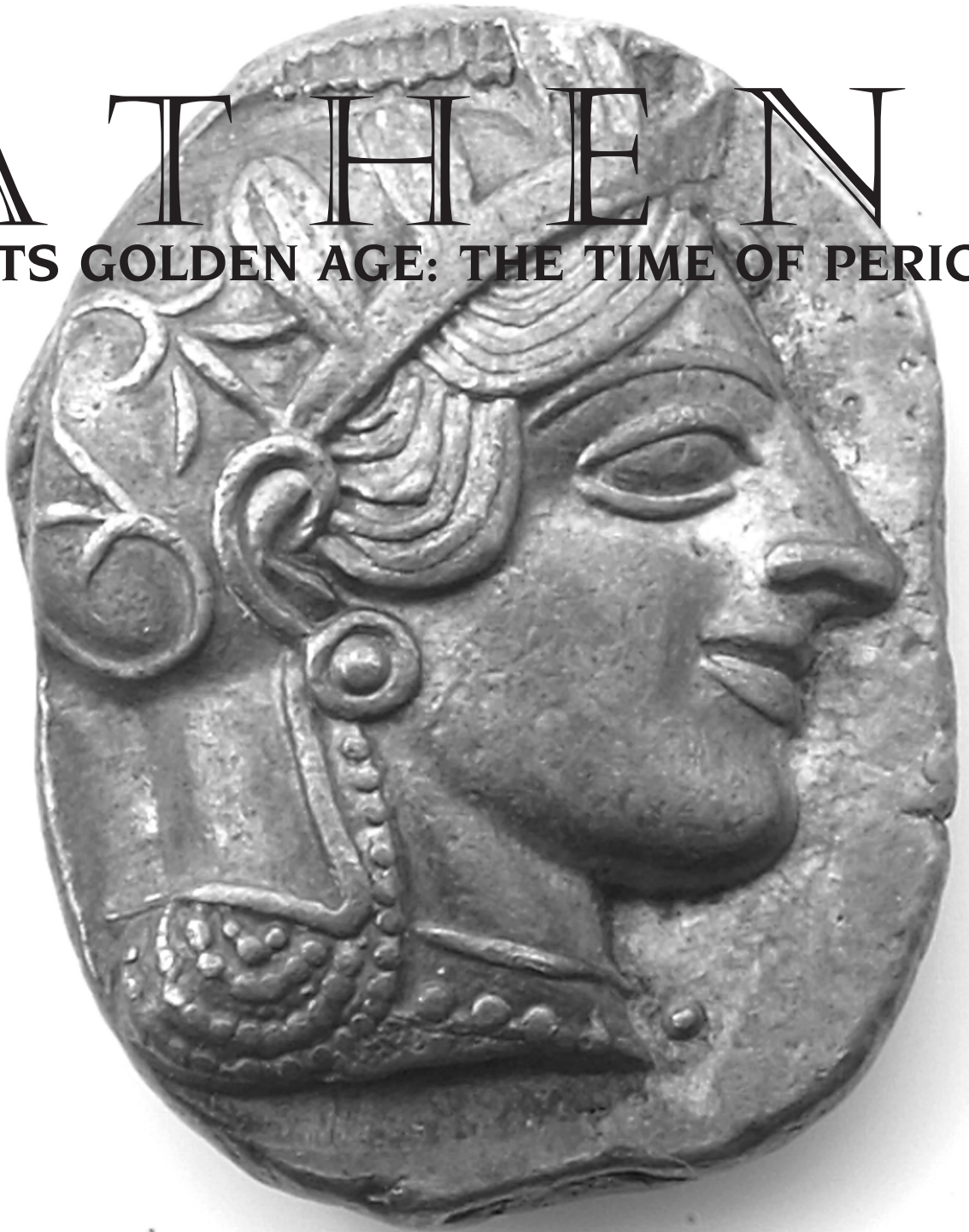


H U M A N I T I E S W E S T

ATHENS

IN ITS GOLDEN AGE: THE TIME OF PERICLES



MAY 2 AND 3, 2008 HERBST THEATRE, SAN FRANCISCO

Presented with support from the Consul General of Greece in San Francisco; Grants for the Arts / San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund; George Marcus; Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University; Institute of European Studies and Office of Resources for International and Area Studies (ORIAS), University of California Berkeley; and Archaeological Institute of America San Francisco Society.

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HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS

ATHENS IN ITS GOLDEN AGE

The Time of Pericles

Moderator: ERICH GRUEN (Emeritus Professor of the Graduate School–Wood Professor, University of California Berkeley)

Introductory slide show prior to the program courtesy of Susan Petrakis, PhD

During the Fifth Century BCE, citizens of the tiny city-state of Athens achieved extraordinary levels of accomplishment in art, architecture, philosophy and theatre. Amid political turmoil at home and constant threats from abroad, Athenians established a work-

ing democracy (though not for all). Their significant contributions influenced the development of human civilization and to this day infuse the arts and shape our sense of democratic values.

Friday, May 2, 2008

8:00 pm to 10:15 pm

Introduction: ERICH GRUEN, Moderator

Keynote Address: **Democracy, Innovation, and Learning**

Beginning with the Funeral Oration of Pericles in Thucydides, in which Pericles gives what seems at first glance to be an almost absurdly idealistic portrait of democracy and the democratic citizen, JOSIAH OBER (Stanford University) discusses how the design of

democratic institutions helped to make that ideal into a lived reality—and thus to make Athens into the startlingly wealthy, powerful, and culturally forward-looking community that it was.

Intermission

Lecture/Performance: **Staging the Past, Confronting the Present in Athenian Theater**

The tragedies performed annually in the Theater of Dionysus (just below the Acropolis) were based on myths and characters from the era of the Trojan War and Seven against Thebes. Playwrights adapted these stories to raise issues of contemporary relevance to Athenians: conflicts between family loyalty and political duty, the fragility of civilized values in the face of war and imperial conquest, and the psychological costs of the disenfranchisement and subor-

dination of women. These plays continue to resonate with extraordinary power among modern audiences. MARK GRIFFITH (UC Berkeley) explores the exciting—and still troubling—dynamics of this unrivalled period of Western theater, through illustrations of the original conditions and style of performance in Periclean Athens, as well as with selected modern film-clips of three tragedies: *The Oresteia*, *Antigone*, and *The Trojan Women*.

Saturday, May 3, 2008

10 am – 12 noon and 1:30 – 4 pm

Introduction: ERICH GRUEN, Moderator

Lecture: **The Akropolis of Athens and its Impact**

MARGARET MILES (UC Irvine). In the sweep of western architectural history, the fifth century BCE stands out: when the buildings of the fifth century did not stand as exemplars, they were iconic of what was to be overturned or superseded. Although its roles have been shifting and occasionally forgotten, the architecture of the fifth century still requires a response from current architects. By the time of the Roman Empire, the styles of the

Parthenon and Erechtheum in Athens were emulated in Rome as a hallmark of a new golden age. The refinements of architectural ornament and sculptural decoration on the temples inspired much later generations and set new standards in the early modern period. The Parthenon and its sculpture (even in its current location in the British Museum) continue as primary symbols of the achievements of Athens in the Periclean era.

Intermission

Lecture: **War Is the Father of All: The Politics of War, Empire, and Freedom in Democratic Athens**

We think of fifth-century Athens as a “Golden Age” of greatness in culture and humanism, characterized by the Parthenon, Phidias’ sculptures, Sophocles’ tragedies, Aristophanes’ comedies, Herodotus’ *Histories*, and the emergence of Socrates’ philosophy. To historian Thucydides, the contemporaries defined “greatness” by stunning victories in war, unprecedented imperial power, and unmatched liberty, all achieved by citizens uniquely committed, on the basis of a powerful civic ideology, to continuing military

and political domination. Yet twenty-five years after Pericles’ death, starved and exhausted, Athens lost the Peloponnesian War and was almost destroyed. KURT A. RAAFLAUB (Brown University) discusses the tensions and contradictions, so meaningful to our own time, inherent in Athens’ politics of war, empire, and freedom, their connection with democracy, and the reasons of Athens’ meteoric rise and fall in the fifth century BCE.

Break for Lunch: Theatre Closes 12:00 to 1:00. Program resumes at 1:30 pm.

Performance: Pythagoras Discovers Philosophy

GEORGE HAMMOND (San Francisco attorney and author). The intellectual influence of Pythagoras on Periclean Athens, and on modern culture, is hard to exaggerate. Known to Humanities West

audiences for his past presentations on Mark Twain and Plato, George dramatizes Pythagoras' return home to Greece in 550 B.C. after years of educational travel in Babylon and Egypt.

Lecture: Greece and Persia: A Clash of Cultures?

The war between Greece and Persia in the early fifth century BCE has generally been interpreted as a mighty watershed in Hellenic history, a pivotal turning point in the self-perception of the Greeks by contrast with the great enemy. The Greek victory provoked the "Orientalizing" of the Persian in Greek eyes, so it is said, to distinguish those who lived in freedom and democracy from the

despised Iranians who lived contentedly under despotism, scorned liberty and preferred servility to rationality and self-determination. **ERICH GRUEN** (UC Berkeley) explores the validity of this interpretation through two major fifth-century texts, Aeschylus' powerful play, *The Persians*, and Herodotus' great history of the war itself.

Intermission

Panel Discussion: ERICH GRUEN, Moderator

Questions from the audience: Please fill out a card with your questions for any of the presenters, to be discussed at the closing Panel Discussion on Saturday

About Our Presenters

Mark Griffith is Klio Distinguished Professor of Classical Languages and Literature; and Professor of Classics and of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley. His BA and PhD are in Classics from Cambridge University. He is former chair of Dramatic Art/Center for Theater Arts and of Classics at UC Berkeley. His specialties are classical drama and performance, Greek and Latin literature. He also taught at Harvard University. His publications include *The Authenticity of Prometheus Bound* (Cambridge U. Press); editor of *Aeschylus: Prometheus Bound* (Cambridge U. Press) and *Sophocles: Antigone* (Cambridge U. Press); co-editor of *Cabinet of the Muses: Essays on classical and comparative literature in honor of Thomas G. Rosenmeyer* (Scholars Press); former editor of *Classical Antiquity*. His awards include UC Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award.



Erich S. Gruen, Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics, UC Berkeley, earned baccalaureates from Columbia and Oxford, and a PhD in History from Harvard, with fields in Greek History, Roman History, and Modern European Intellectual History. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, twice a Guggenheim Fellow, Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and Visiting Fellow at Merton College, Oxford. His awards include Distinguished Teaching Award, UC Berkeley, and the James H. Breasted Prize (for *The Hellenistic World and the Coming of Rome*, 1984). Other publications include: *Roman Politics and the Criminal Courts, 149-78 BC* (Harvard, 1968), *The Last Generation of the Roman Republic* (UC Press, 1974, 1995), *Studies in Greek Culture and Roman Policy* (Brill, 1990; UC Press, 1996), *Culture and National Identity in Republican Rome* (Cornell, 1992, 1994); *Images and Ideologies: Self-Definition in the Hellenistic World* (co-ed.) (UC Press, 1993); *Hellenistic Constructs: Essays in Culture, History, and Historiography* (co-ed.) (UC Press, 1997); *Heritage and Hellenism: The Reinvention of Jewish Tradition* (UC Press, 1998); *Diaspora: Jews amidst Greeks and Romans* (Harvard, 2002); *Cultural Borrowings and Ethnic Appropriations in Antiquity* (ed.) (Franz Steiner Verlag, 2005).



George Hammond is known to Humanities West audiences for his previous presentations on Mark Twain in 2005 and on Plato in 2006 as part of the Sicily seminar. George is a San Francisco corporate attorney who special-

izes in international mergers and acquisitions. He is also the author of four novels, a collection of short stories and six philosophical books on issues in rational idealism, theoretical physics, Plato's theory, early Christianity, the Soviet Union, psychology and constitutional law. His indebtedness to Pythagorean thought is pithily expressed in the name of his website: www.pythpress.com.

Margaret M. Miles is an archaeologist and Professor of Art History and Classics at UC Irvine. She has excavated in Athens and Corinth, and has done architectural fieldwork at Sounion and Rhamnous in Greece, and at Selinous and Agrigento in Sicily. Her research focuses on Greek architecture and the archaeology of Greek religion. Her first book was *Agora XXXI: The City Eleusinion*, Princeton, 1998 (a study of the sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone on the north slope of the Akropolis in Athens, a branch center for the Eleusinian Mysteries). She is the editor of *Cleopatra: A Sphinx Revisited* (forthcoming UC Press), and author of *Art as Plunder: the Ancient Origins of Debate about Cultural Property* (2008), a study of the impact of Cicero's ideas about the ethics of collecting art on our modern concept of cultural property. She has been appointed the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, and will move to Athens in July.



Josiah Ober holds the Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis Professorship in honor of Constantine Mitsotakis in Humanities and Sciences at Stanford University. He has appointments in Classics and in Political Science, and a courtesy appointment in Philosophy. He writes and teaches on topics conjoining Greek history, classical philosophy, and political theory and practice. His most recent book is *Athenian Legacies: Essays on the Politics of Going On Together*, Princeton U. Press (2005). He is completing a book on *Democratic Knowledge: Innovation and Learning in Classical Athens*. In addition to his work on the politics of knowledge and innovation, he is developing a project on the relationship between democracy and inherent human capacities and the ethical implications of that relationship. His other authored or co-authored books include *Fortress Attica* (1985), *Mass and Elite in Democratic Athens* (1989), *The Athenian Revolution* (1996), *Political Dissent in Democratic Athens* (1998). His writing for popular audiences includes *The Anatomy*

Continued on page 6

TIME-LINE: *ATHENS in its Golden Age*

Compiled by Susan Petrakis, PhD

- ca. 3200-3000 BCE** Neolithic age: Earliest evidence for settlement in Athens on slopes of Acropolis.
- ca. 1400-1200 BCE** Athens is center of Mycenaean civilization; 14th c tombs; 13th c. fortifications.
- 1100-900 BCE** Collapse of Mycenaean civilization; Greek Dark Age; migration of Dorians into Greek Mainland; earliest Greek settlements founded in Ionia (coast of Asia Minor).
- 776-750 BCE** Olympic Games (First Olympiad); Greek colonization throughout Mediterranean and Black Sea; earliest Greek alphabetic inscriptions; age of Homer and Hesiod.
- 650-510 BCE** Cylon, Draco, Solon, Pisistratus, Hipparchus and Hippias.
- ca. 580-572 BCE** Philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras born on Ionian island of Samos.
- 546 BCE** Persian king Cyrus the Great invades Lydia and annexes Ionian cities of Asia Minor.
- 510-508 BCE** Tyrant Hippias expelled; Reforms of Cleisthenes: a democratic constitution.
- 499-494 BCE** Ionian Greek cities revolt against Persia; Athenians and Eretrians participate in sack of Sardis, the Lydian capital; Persians defeat Ionians in the battle of Lade.
- 490 BCE** Persian forces invade Greece by sea; Greeks defeat Persians at Marathon.
- 483 BCE** Rich deposit of silver discovered at state-owned mines of Laureion in Attica; Athenians use profits to build a fleet for protection against Persia.
- 480 BCE** Persians, under King Xerxes, invade Greece; Battle of Thermopylae; Persians sack Athens; Greeks defeat Persians in naval battle of Salamis and land battle of Plateia.
- 478 BCE** Athens leads formation of Delian League, an alliance against Persia; island of Delos becomes treasury; Themistocles rebuilds fortification walls of Athens.
- 472 BCE** Aeschylus' tragedy, *Persians*, wins first prize at festival of Dionysos at Athens.
- ca. 462-60 BCE** Pericles heads Board of Ten Generals; 'First Peloponnesian War' between Delian League and Peloponnesian League led by Sparta; birth of Thucydides.
- 458 BCE** Aeschylus' tragedy, *Oresteia*, wins first prize at festival of Dionysos at Athens.
- 449-45 BCE** Peace between Greece and Persia; construction begins on the Parthenon; 'Thirty Years' Peace' between Athens and Sparta ends First Peloponnesian War; Athens completes construction of the Long Walls, protecting her harbor at Piraeus.
- ca. 442 BCE** Sophocles' tragedy, *Antigone*, is performed at Festival of Dionysus at Athens.
- 438-37 BCE** Pheidias' gold and ivory cult-statue of Athena is dedicated on the Acropolis; construction begins on the Propylaia, the monumental entrance to the Acropolis.
- 431-30 BCE** 'Second Peloponnesian War' begins; Sparta invades Attica; Pericles commemorates those fallen in the first year of war in his Funeral Oration at Athens; plague in Athens.
- 429 BCE** Death of Pericles.
- 427 BCE** Construction begins on Temple of Athena Nike on the Acropolis.
- 421 BCE** Peace of Nicias ends the first half of the war; construction begins on Erechtheion.
- 416-13 BCE** Athenians attack and destroy Melos, slaughtering all men and selling women and children into slavery; Athenian fleet destroyed in expedition against Syracuse; Euripides' tragedy, *Trojan Women*, takes second prize at Festival of Dionysus.
- 404-03 BCE** Sparta defeats Athens at battle of Aegospotamoi, ending war; Sparta forces Athens to destroy Long Walls; imposes board of thirty oligarchs, led by Critias, to rule Athens; 'The Thirty' are overthrown; democracy is restored; substantial legal reforms.
- 399 BCE** Trial and death of the philosopher, Socrates.

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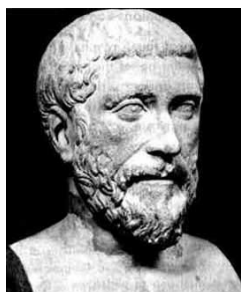
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About Our Presenters, *continued from page 3*

of Error: Ancient Military Disasters and Their Lessons for Modern Strategists (1990 with Barry Strauss) *A Company of Citizens: What the World's First Democracy Teaches Leaders about Building Great Organizations* (2003 with Brook Manville). He has held research fellowships from ACLS, NEH, and Guggenheim. Before Stanford he taught at Montana State and Princeton Universities.



Kurt Raaflaub is David Herlihy University Professor and Professor of Classics and History; Chair, Program in Ancient Studies; and Royce Family Professor in Teaching Excellence, at Brown University. He earned a PhD from University of Basel, Switzerland. His fields of interest are social and political history of the Roman republic; and social, political, and intellectual history of archaic and classical Greece. His publications include *Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece* (with J. Ober and R. Wallace), (Berkeley, 2007); *Dignitatis contentio: Motivation and Political Strategy in Caesar's Civil War*

(Munich, 1974); *The Discovery of Freedom* (Munich, 1985; English ed. Chicago, 2004) (James Henry Breasted Prize for best book in English on any period before 1000 CE). Among co-authored books are *Aspects of Athenian Democracy* (Copenhagen, 1990); *Ancient History: Recent Work and New Directions* (Claremont, 1997); and *Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece* (Berkeley, 2005). He has edited *Social Struggles in Archaic Rome* (Berkeley, 1986; new ed. Oxford, forthcoming); *Between Republic and Empire: Interpretations of Augustus and his Principate* (Berkeley, 1990, with M. Toher); *City-States in Classical Antiquity and Medieval Italy* (Stuttgart & Ann Arbor, 1991, with A. Molho and J. Emlen); *Beginnings of Political Thought in the Ancient World: The Near-Eastern Civilizations and the Greeks* (Munich 1993); *Democracy 2500? Questions and Challenges* (Dubuque, 1998, with I. Morris); *Democracy, Empire, and the Arts in Fifth-Century Athens* (Cambridge, 1998, with D. Boedeker); *War and Society in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds* (Cambridge, 1999, with N. Rosenstein); *War and Peace in the Ancient World* (Malden, MA and Oxford, 2007).

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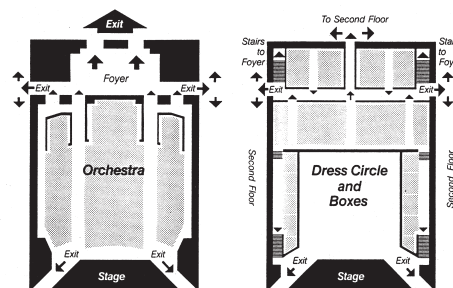
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